Projects under NREGS in Orissa

1057. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently initiated to set up hundreds of projects under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure earmarked for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. In accordance with Section 13(1) of NREG Act 2005, the Panchayats at district, intermediate and village level are the principal authorities for planning and implementation of the Schemes made under the Act. Section 16(1) of the Act provides that the Gram Panchayat shall be responsible for identification of the projects in the Gram Panchayat area to be taken up under a scheme as per the recommendations of the Gram Sabha and the Ward Sabhas. Proposals for the development projects of the Gram Panchayats are sent to the Programme Officer for preliminary approval who sends them to district Panchayat for final approval. Thus, projects under NREGS are neither initiated nor approved by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

TSC in Andhra Pradesh

1058. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Andhra Pradesh, where Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) operates at present with the assistance of the Union Government;

(b) the fund allocation made by the Union Government for the campaign for the State during each of the last three years and for 2005-06;

(c) whether all the districts of the State are to be covered by the campaign;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (e) The Districts of Andhra Pradesh where Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects have been approved at presents are – Adilabad, Anantapur, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Karimnagar, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnool, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddi, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal and West Godavari.

No funds are allocated to any State under the Total Sanitation campaign as it is a demand driven programme. The central funds released to Andhra Pradesh for 2005-06 is Rs. 4300.09 lakh, for 2006-07 is Rs. 9455.20 lakh, 2007-08 is Rs. 878.78 lakh and for 2008-09 till date is Rs. 1391.81 lakh. All rural districts of the State have been approved projects under this programme.

Fake bank guarantees by contractors in Himachal Pradesh

1059. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State PWD has been rocked by a major scam in which fake bank guarantees running into crores of rupees have been submitted by contractors awarded works under PMGSY in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had received a letter in this regard and names of the officers/ contractors who are involved for misusing of public money and actions taken by the State Government against guilty officers/contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. The fact is that some of the bank guarantees submitted by contractors have not been confirmed by the issuing bank/next higher authority of that bank in respect of PMGSY works.

(b) and (c) Name of the contractors involved in this and action taken against them is given in the table below:-

Sl.No.	Name of contractors	Package No.	Status
1.	Shri Rajesh Thakur	HP—10—79 HP—06—35 HP—08—80 HP—08—03	FIR registered. Matter under police investigation.
2.	Shri Rakesh Thakur	HP—06—04	FIR registered. Matter under police investigation.
3.	Shri Harish Negi	HP—10—85	FIR registered. Matter under police investigation.
4.	Shri Satish Negi	HP—09—60	FIR registered. Matter under police investigation.
5.	M/s. Himgiri Engineering construction works Prof. Mr. Sanjeev Bhandari	HP—08—98	Matter under investigation.